(e) and (f) Category-wise sanctioned strength of VFJ is as under:—

Category	Sanctioned Strength	Existing Strength
Group 'A'	83	63
Group 'B'	149	122
Non-Gazetted Officer	1060	730
Non-Industrial Employees	1272	1013
Industrial Employees	7467	3866

Vacancies are being filled up in accordance with Government Policy on Annual Direct Recruitment Plan.

Joint Development of 5th Generation Fighter Plane with Russia

889. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the agreement which India and Russia have signed recently for joint development of a futuristic '5th generation' fighter plane;

(b) which design has been chosen in this crucial project;

(c) will these '5th generation' fighter be in addition to India's existing inventory or will they replace the '4th generation' machines; and

(d) will this involve major changes in the training module of our pilots who are presently flying the 4th generation fighter planes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) An Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) signed between the Indian and Russian Government on 18th October, 2007 envisages co-operation in:

Joint development and certification of a Prospective Multi-role Fighter (PMF); Preparation and set up of the fighter serial production; Joint production and sale of the fighter; Joint marketing in third countries etc.

(b) The fighter will be designed and developed in accordance with the technical requirements of Russian Air Force and Indian Air Force.

(c) PMF will replace aircraft which would be phased out by that time.

(d) The training pattern of aircrew and ground crew will be tailored specifically for the effective induction and operationalisation of PMF.

Infiltration through sea routes

890. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) will the Hon'ble Defence Minister kindly recall his recent statement in Parliament that there are intelligence reports about terrorists of various groups being trained and the likelihood of the infiltration through sea routes; and

(b) if so, whether adequate surveillance is being kept on our nearly 5400 kilometres coastline so that our off-shore oil installations are safely guarded and our imports through sea row amounting to nearly Rs. 1,500,000 crores and also substantial exports are not adversely affected?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) India's coastal waters are guarded by the Indian Cost Guard in coordination with the State Police and the Navy. The measures that have been taken and planned to enhance the coastal security include regular aerial surveillance and maritime patrolling along the coast and establishment of coastal police stations in the littoral States as part of Coastal Security Scheme. The Indian Navy has an elaborate arrangement to thwart threats at sea. Such measures are regularly updated in coordination with the Indian Coast Guard and other central as well as local agencies. In addition, patrolling along India's International Maritime Boundary Line, cooperation with India's maritime neighbours in the field of sharing information on ship movement and platform signature, etc., are some of other measures for maintaining good order at sea in the region. India also holds interactions with other countries, in which issues of mutual interest including providing security to sea-lanes in the Indian Ocean Region are discussed.

Delay in Induction of Arjun Tank

†891. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that considerable delay is taking place for the induction of Arjun tank in the Army;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the speedy manufacturing of Arjun tank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been some delay due to frequent design modification and the time required to procure some major assemblies.

(c) The necessary steps have been taken to ensure timely availability of all critical aggregates. Production of the MBT Arjun tank is being regularly monitored through working Group Meeting held under the chairmanship of Director General Mechanised Forces and Steering Committee Meeting held under the Co-Chairmanship of Secretary (Defence Production) and Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri.

MIG-21 Crashes

892. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents which took place during the last three years involving fighter plane MiG-21 and number of lives lost;

(b) whether Government is considering to review the further use of MiG-21; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A total number of 10 accidents took place involving MiG-21 aircraft during the last three years and the current

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.